comfit its rivals, and the other, largely from the North, taking the conservative side.

THE ATTEMPT AT SALVATION BY REACTION: THE COUP D'ETAT OF 1898 AND THE BOXER UPRISING

The reactionary elements looked to the Empress Dowager for support and leadership. In September, 1898, Tz'ii Hsi took charge of the government. She had kept closely in touch with the developing situation and at first had allowed Kuang Hsu to go his own way. However, she distrusted his measures and became both alarmed and annoyed by the rapidity and—to her—lack of wisdom with which he was veering toward the left.

Conflict between the two was inevitable, for heretofore the Old Buddha had kept Kuang Hsu in leading strings, and independence of action on his part must lead to a trial of strength. The Emperor moved first, secretly ordering the death of Jung-lu, her loyal supporter and trusted adviser. Yuan Shih-k'ai, to whom Kuang Hsu committed the execution, revealed the plan to Jung-lu and the latter at once went to see the Empress Dowager. Tz'u Hsi acted promptly and vigorously. She had Kuang Hsu seized (September 22, 1898), and, although she permitted him to live and to retain the title of Emperor, she kept him a prisoner in a portion of his own palace and in his name once more assumed the regency. Several of the reformers were arrested and executed, and others, including K'ang Yu-wei, escaped a like fate only by fleeing the country. Many of the edicts of the hundred days were countermanded, although a few were allowed to stand.

A second Chinese attempt to save the country—by conservatism—

was in full swing.

The reaction culminated in an outbreak, usually known as the Boxer Rebellion, which, ultimately with the sanction of the Empress Dowager, sought to oust the alien and his ways from the Empire.

That an anti-foreign upheaval of some kind came was not surprising. Irritation against the alien was widespread. The defeat by Japan, the seizure of ports by European powers, the granting of railway concessions and the beginning of railway construction, fear of the partition of the Empire, bitter feeling against missionaries and their converts—due partly to absurd rumors of